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January 8th, 2007

Mr. Rick Daniels
Salton Sea Authority
78-401 Highway 111, Suite T
La Quinta, CA 92253

Dear Mr. Daniels,

Rancho Housing Alliance, Inc., a subsidiary of Desert Alliance for Community Empowerment (DACE), hereby acknowledges its enthusiastic support of the Salton Sea Authority's locally-developed conceptual plan for the Salton Sea and its surrounding area titled "*Salton Sea Authority Conceptual Plan for Multi-Purpose Project*" while urging the authority to consider the devastating dearth of affordable housing within the federally-designated Desert Community Empowerment Zone (DCEZ).

Rancho Housing Alliance, Inc. was incorporated in 2001 in efforts to provide residents and the communities of eastern Riverside County with the means and resources for quality and affordable housing. Rancho Housing Alliance, Inc. aims to achieve its goal by developing and constructing affordable single-family and manufactured housing, by providing qualified families with the resources and information they need to achieve home ownership, and by providing residents with the information, assistance, and resources necessary to assess their current and future housing needs.

As California's largest body of water, the Salton Sea and its splendor can only be matched by its potential as articulated within the Salton Sea Authority's conceptual plan. The plan will foster ecosystem restoration, regional economic growth, and provide recreational opportunities for current and future residents alike. In fact, the communities surrounding the Salton Sea are facing rapid growth as the demand for affordable housing migrates families to these rural areas.

It is imperative that the Salton Sea Authority and its conceptual plan both recognize and address the housing needs of people currently inhabiting and those moving to the surrounding area. Currently, Rancho Housing Alliance, Inc. is constructing new housing in these communities to assist more than 2,000 very-low and low income residents who are interested in home ownership and have no options elsewhere. Therefore, the plan should empower the current communities by providing suitable and affordable housing opportunities.

Rancho Housing Alliance, Inc. has collaborated with the various agencies and individuals which comprise the Salton Sea Authority and salutes the agency's efforts to revitalize and restore the Salton Sea and its surrounding areas. As a result, Rancho Housing Alliance, Inc. remains confident that the Salton Sea Authority will act in the best interest of DCEZ inhabitants and thus wholeheartedly endorses the "*Salton Sea Authority Conceptual Plan for Multi-Purpose Project*."

Sincerely,


JEFFREY A. HAYS
Executive Director

**RANCHO HOUSING ALLIANCE IS A EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER
SERVING EASTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY**